

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

THE GREATER PART OF THE SWEDISH PRESS COMMENTED ON THE
UNSC DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST, SWEDEN'S ROLE IN
THE DEBATE AND THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF A U.S. VETO.

MODERATE SVENSKA DAGBLADET: "THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OUGHT
TO BE HUMBLY GRATEFUL TO GREAT BRITAIN. ONLY BECAUSE OF
RESOLUTE, LAST-MINUTE BRITISH INTERVENTION IN THE UN SECURITY
COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WAS SWEDEN SPARED FROM
GETTING INTO A PAINFUL, NOT TO SAY SHAMEFUL, POSITION ON AN
IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUE.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE PALME GOVERNMENT WAS SPARED A FOREIGN
POLICY DEBATE AT HOME, WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN PAINFUL EVEN
FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. ...WHEN THE NON-SOCIALIST
PARTY LEADERS WERE BRIEFED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON
ON MONDAY, THEY UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION
STATING THAT IT FAVORED ONLY THE ARABS. ... FOR THE OPPO-
SITION, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION (TO
SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION) WOULD MEAN A NOTABLE DEVIATION
FROM SWEDEN'S PREVIOUS LINE. ...

"SWEDEN SUPPORTED THE BRITISH PROPOSAL, AND, AFTER
IT WAS REJECTED, SWEDEN ABSTAINED, ALONG WITH BRITAIN,
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FROM VOTING ON THE RESOLUTION. ... THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WAS KILLED, AS EXPECTED, BY THE U.S. VETO, AND NOW EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WILL TAKE A NEW AND, HOPEFULLY, MORE REALISTIC COURSE."

INDEPENDENT DAGENS NYHETER: "NOTHING CAME OUT OF THE TWO WEEKS OF DEBATE IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. ...

"IT WAS CLEAR BEFOREHAND THAT THE U.S. WOULD VETO ANY RESOLUTION MENTIONING THE TERRITORIAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THE RESULT DID NOT COME AS A SURPRISE. ...

"WHAT SWEDEN TRIED TO ACCOMPLISH WAS TO SIMULTANEOUSLY VOTE BOTH FOR ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS, THAT IS THE PLO. IT IS AN UNDERSTANDABLE ATTEMPT CONSIDERING THE GROWING INTEREST IN SWEDEN FOR THE FATE OF THE PALESTINIANS. IT WAS NEVERTHELESS A DIFFICULT VENTURE VERGING ON THE IMPOSSIBLE. ... THE SWEDISH ATTEMPT TO PERFORM A VERY SOFISTICATED BALANCING ACT ENDED WHEN THE U.K. PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT WHICH DEMANDED THAT THE NEW RESOLUTION CLEARLY REFLECT THE OLD RESOLUTIONS. ...

"WHAT WILL THE CONSEQUENCES NOW BE AS REGARDS THE FAR GREATER ISSUE OF THE FUTURE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST? IT CANNOT BE TOTALLY PRECLUDED THAT THE U.S. IS QUITE CONTENT WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY THAT ISRAEL IS UNDER PRESSURE. THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER WILL CERTAINLY RECEIVE SOME UNDESIREED ADVICE DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO THE U.S. ..."

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AFTONBLADET: "THE UN RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH WAS STOPPED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL BY AN AMERICAN VETO, DEMONSTRATES THAT NO PROGRESS TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT CAN BE MADE UNTIL THE U.S. AND THE USSR AGREE ON WHAT THE SOLUTION SHOULD LOOK LIKE. ...

".. THE ISRAELI SATISFACTION WITH THE AMERICAN VETO IS EVIDENT. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE A TACTICAL MISTAKE ON THE PART OF ISRAEL NOT TO ARGUE ITS CAUSE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND LEAVE IT UP TO THE U.S. TO SPEAK FOR ISRAEL. ...

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"ISRAEL CAN, NO MORE THAN THE ARABS, ACT WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INTENTIONS OF THE U.S. AND THE USSR, WHICH LEAST OF ALL CAN BE SEPARATED FROM SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN THE GREATER INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT. ...

"... MUCH DEPENDS ON WHETHER THE U.S. AND THE USSR TOGETHER HAVE THE POLITICAL WILL TO WORK FOR THE CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT BOTH THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS ARE,

IF POSSIBLE, MORE THAN EVER OBLIGED TO DO SO.

" NO RESOLUTIONS IN THE WORLD WILL SOLVE THE MIDDLE
EAST CONFLICT, IF ALL THE PARTIES DO NOT MANAGE TO AGREE
ON THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE AREA."

LIBERAL EXPRESSEN: "FAILURE FOR THE UN AND FOR SWEDEN. THE
UNITED NATIONS HAS NOW LOST CONTROL OF THE MIDDLE EAST
SITUATION. AFTER THE FAILURE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE
UN IS MOST LIKELY TO BE EXCLUDED FROM FURTHER PEACE
EFFORTS.

"FORTUNATELY, NO RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED. ...THE DEBATE PER
SE WAS A DISTRESSING DEMONSTRATION OF MISUNDERSTANDING AND
CONFUSION. ...

"THIS EXAMPLE ILLUSTRATES THE SHORT-COMINGS OF A PROPOSAL
WHICH SWEDEN SUPPORTED FOR A FEW HOURS AND WHICH SOUGHT TO
IMPOSE BROADBRUSH SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS THAT MUST BE
RESOLVED BY THE PARTIES THEMSELVES. IT IS A SHAME THAT THE
SWEDISH GOVERNMENT FAILED IN THIS REGARD."
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